

New Guinea
March 16, 1945

My darling Mama:

The top of the evening to you. I have just finished rereading your letters of March 3rd and 4th which I received today. I was just a bit embarrassed when I read where I had sent one of your letters back to you. It happened like this – I put your letter in my writing desk & reread them sometimes before writing you. I folded up the letter I wrote to you, set it aside to address the envelope and picked up your letter in the meantime. I wrote you of finding my letter in one of your envelopes.

Mail call was generous today. I received in addition to yours, ones from Harold, Dominique, Gladys Rivers, Frances, & Dorothy Parr & Leo. Dominique says that Pitsch is somewhere in Europe. John Lozano has been in Mexico for two years – the girl whom I knew at Law School, Mary Louise Villares is now a Marine Lieutenant – Lescher the Pennsylvanian boy whom I didn't care for, divorced his wife & had another nervous collapse.

Harold said he could kick himself for not having married sooner – I imagine that many a rough Whitfield just was gotten off about the marriage

The Japanese radio station is on but it is usually just a harangue. You asked what effect Germanys' fall would have on Japan. I believe the release of shipping would be about the biggest contribution. But Lord, it would help in every way. We could throw more troops in China – land as many more places – throw more places at them. I believe that we shall have landed in China by July. Once there, it will be a question of what should be attacked & what bypassed. The Japs will not be able to hold us for even a short period at any place, of course there the rub is that China is terrifyingly large – But I expect the Japanese to show up more poorly there than they have at any time previously.

Another thing Mama, I believe it entirely possible that we might land on Japan proper – a landing, I mean, before the final phase of the war. McArthur's policy of sparing lives might prevent it – But than our Navy could sit off the coast indefinitely, we would dominate the skies – all the Japanese conquests below and to the left of the Philippines are now useless to them, of course I imagine that might have surprising reserves in Japan proper & more [illegible] like Germany, but then again I don't that – They are not smart.

Despite the constant successes in Burma, it doesn't fill one with too much enthusiasm when we eventually do seize all the peninsula we will have achieved no tactical advantage – the nips can ship next to nothing from them now – it will amount to a mapping up operation on a large scale. The fighting there, however, is under the worst conditions [illegible] in this theatre. Despite all the talk about conditions over here I think they are much better than winter conditions in Europe. What think you of the bombings in Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka – of course, we know that the bombing of Germany brought slow results, but then again I don't believe the Japanese can cope with them as can Germany. They are not systematic enough – Also Japan will feel mightily alone when Germany is out of the war.

Lou is back and I am once again Executive Officer – I learned a good bit during his absence which will aid me if I ever get the company which I imagine I eventually will.

We had excellent steak tonight, and I ate heartily. We are going to another dance Sunday night.

Mother you asked if we would take Pin Up with us if we left. Yes we shall take her along – and the monkey & the pig. I hate to think of ever parting with Pin Up. You should have seen her in our day room last night – Lou and I were pitching rings as wooden steaks and she broke up the game completely by jumping into the air after the rings. Later she jumped up on a chair and very interestedly watched some of the men playing dominoes – she looked like the dog on the Victor records.

It has been raining here daily just now thunder rumbles nearby. It rarely ever thunders over here – Just as I write the rain can be hear creeping up from the distance; it has the quietest sound I ever heard.

I have a cold – their has been an epidemic of this, mine is better however.

Well mother, close I shall with the statement that there is only one person whom I adore – Goodnight to you.

Your ever loving son.

John M. Harrod

“Doc you welcome my hat tipped off”

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